



# 5 STAR

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USS DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER (CVN 69)



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## IKE Weather

### Today

High: 42  
Low: 28  
Sunrise: 0643  
Sunset: 1646  
Partly Cloudy



### Tomorrow

High: 44  
Low: 31  
Sunrise: 0642  
Sunset: 1648  
Partly Cloudy



## TEAM IKE: A Look at 2008, Success, Hard Work and Preparation

By MC3(SW) Patrick Gearhiser  
— 5 Star Staff Writer

Nimitz-class aircraft carrier USS Dwight D. Eisenhower (CVN 69) had its hands full with events throughout 2008 as Sailors aboard the ship worked to represent themselves, their ship and the Navy well.

The year began with IKE conducting its Planned Incremental Availability (PIA) January 22. From January until June, IKE was in Norfolk Naval Shipyard to upgrade spaces and systems for the 2009 deployment.

IKE's time in the yards did not mean Sailors were idle. On the same day IKE's PIA began, more than 700 Sailors participated in a community relations (Com-Rel) event in Portsmouth. IKE Sailors cleaned various local roadside and shoreline sites collecting nearly 9,500 pounds of trash.

IKE's crew followed that up with another ComRel Feb. 21 that brought nearly 400 Sailors to sites throughout Hampton Roads. Sailors performed a variety of tasks in the local area including painting community buildings, building a new dugout for a Little League



*IKE conducts rudder swing checks during sea trials. U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class (SW) Rafael Figueroa Medina.*

baseball field and sorting donated food. Even more ComRels followed in March and April.

After completing PIA, IKE conducted a successful sea trials period in July. While inspecting IKE's various systems and capabilities, Sailors also practiced medical response and damage control drills. Upon return to Naval Station Norfolk, IKE hoisted the traditional broom to signify a clean sweep of the testing evolutions.

IKE welcomed aboard a group of midshipmen from July 30 to August 14. While on IKE, the midshipmen

gained a better understanding of the Navy lifestyle and learned the leadership skills required to serve as good officers in the Navy.

The ships that would make up the Eisenhower Carrier Strike Group departed Naval Station Norfolk September 16th for a group sail. The underway culminated in the sinking of the ex-USS O'Bannon (DD 987).

On September 18, IKE was proud to host the Honorable Donald C. Winter, Secretary of the Navy, and the Japanese Ambassador

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## Sports Corner

### A Case Against the College Football Playoff

By Harvey Araton

— Courtesy of the Times Digest

The parents wore cloud-nine smiles posing for a photograph with Archie Manning, and then the father, Sam Harrell, stepped away to say: "I'm a coach's kid. I grew up watching these people and hearing stories about them and here they are."

There they were, Harrell and his wife, Kathy, Dallas-area school-teachers playing hooky Tuesday at the Waldorf-Astoria. Harrell, the coach's kid who became a high school coach and the father of a pretty fair college player, scanned the lobby that included a guest list of dignitaries ranging from the athletically famous (Troy Aikman) to the fabulously wealthy (T. Boone Pickens).

"Stuff like this is the icing on the cake," Harrell said.

His boy, Graham, had come on his first trip to New York, from Lubbock, Tex., for the National Football Foundation's College Hall of Fame dinner Tuesday. Graham Harrell, a quarterback, was a candidate for the Draddy Award, often referred to as the Academic Heisman, after throwing for 4,747 yards and 41 touchdowns in what felt like a storybook senior season with everything but a national-championship-game cherry.

The top of the Big 12 South presented a logjam of 11-1 teams — Oklahoma, Texas and Graham Harrell's would-be party crashers from Texas Tech. When the Bowl Championship Series votes were calculated, it was Oklahoma going to and winning the Big 12 title game over Missouri. Texas (which beat Oklahoma) voiced a legitimate beef, and Texas Tech (which beat Texas) wondered how it disappeared.

"We had the same record as both those teams and we weren't even mentioned," Graham Harrell said. "Texas and Oklahoma are schools

that can play for a national title any year, and when it comes down to it, I do think a lot has to do with reputation. But three teams, 11-1, all beat each other, how are you going to solve that?"

It was a rhetorical question, the answer voiced annually this time of year by the chorus calling for a college football playoff that would settle all disputes.

For a team as close as Texas Tech was this season — second in the B.C.S. standings until falling through the trapdoor at Oklahoma — the Cotton Bowl might sound like a consolation game to the pro-playoff crowd. Sam Harrell took issue with that school of thought. "Don't get me started on that soapbox," he said.

"You know, I coach high school football in Texas, and every year there's only one team that ends up happy in your classification," he said. "You go the playoffs, the first round, the second round, the quarterfinals — oh how exciting for everyone. But you look at it, as soon as one of those teams gets beat, they're just forgotten."

"People would have you believe, oh, the playoff would be perfect, ideal, but I think that if we did it, in about six years, people would say, 'Oh my God, what have we done? We've ruined a perfectly good season's ending for a whole lot of teams for the benefit of one.' Is that really better for the kids?"

Not what you would expect to hear from the father of a Heisman contender whose team lost one game playing in the Big 12 South and doesn't even get to go to a B.C.S. bowl.

Graham Harrell did not win the Draddy, which went to California center Alex Mack, but he did earn an \$18,000 scholar-athlete award. What family could argue with an outcome like that?

## Questions of the Day



### BMR

(1) What does MCPON stand for?

### EAWS



(2) Who wears a white jersey with a blue cross on the flight deck?

### ESWS



(3) What does SONAR stand for?

## Answers

(3) Sound Navigation and Ranging.

(2) Chaplains.

(1) Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy.



# IKE Celebrates the Holiday Season with Adult's and Children's Holiday Parties



*IKE Sailors and their families gathered on Dec. 5 and 7 to have fun and celebrate the holidays. The adult party featured music and dinner and the children's party included visiting Santa, climbing the rock wall and the jumping in the moon bounce. U.S. Navy photos by IKE's Media Department.*



# A Look Back at IKE this Past Year



*IKE has accomplished many great things in 2008 from completing a six-month Planned Incremental Availability period to getting underway, completing sea trials, a weapons onload and missile shoot. U.S. Navy photos by IKE's Media Department.*

## SAILOR IN THE SPOTLIGHT



Ship's Serviceman Seamen Apprentice Jennifer Shrum  
Supply Department/S-3 Division

Ship's Serviceman Seamen Apprentice Jennifer Shrum is from Clovis, Calif., where she attended Buchanan High School. Shrum participated in many of Buchanan's sports teams, including basketball and softball, until graduating in June 2001.

The following years would find Shrum working at Warehouse Music while pursuing an Associate's degree in criminology from Fresno Community College in California.

Two family members influenced Shrum's decision to join the Navy. From an early age, she had been inspired by her father, a Navy veteran. When she decided to join on June 30, 2008, she enlisted with her cousin under the Navy's buddy program.

Following recruit training, Shrum reported to SH A-School in Meridian, Miss. She reported to IKE October 11 and now works in S-3 division.

For her future plans, Shrum would like continue her education, earning her Bachelor's degree in criminology. Likely a career Sailor, Shrum intends to cross rate to Hospital Corpsman as soon as she is eligible.

In her free time, Shrum enjoys participating in many forms of sports, exercise and keeping in touch with her family at home.

## IKE

### From Page 1

to the United States Ichiro Fujisaki. For 24 hours, Ambassador Fujisaki observed IKE's operations including day and night flight operations. IKE Sailors showed Ambassador Fujisaki around the Combat Direction Center, Flight Deck Control and Health Services.

IKE's eventful year also included a celebration of the ship's 31st birthday on October 18. A ceremony was held in the ship's hangar bay.

Throughout the year, IKE accomplished many things and will continue to pave the way for excellence well into 2009 and beyond. ★

## IKE Sailors Recognized with Stennis Leadership Awards

By MC3(SW) Nathan Parde  
5 Star Staff Writer

Two Sailors from the Nimitz-class aircraft carrier USS Dwight D. Eisenhower (CVN 69) were awarded the 2008 Stennis Leadership Awards at a banquet held at the Vista Point Center Dec. 4.

The event was sponsored by both the Stennis Center, based in Mississippi, and IKE's Leadership Development Committee.

This is the first year that IKE has partnered with the Stennis Center to present the Stennis Leadership Awards to IKE Sailors. The award recipients have demonstrated superior performance and tremendous leadership skills over the course of

the past twelve months, said IKE's Commanding Officer, Dee L. Mewbourne.

The 2008 5 Star Leadership award was presented to Lt. Cmdr. Sean P. Knight for outstanding leadership demonstrated at the officer level.

The 2008 Waging Peace award was presented to Chief Storekeeper (AW/SW) Jose Rodriguez for superior leadership for a senior-enlisted IKE Sailor.

"To me, Eisenhower has always stood out. This is spoken both as an admirer of the great leadership of the president and in reference to the Sailors who are stationed aboard the ship that was named after him," said Rex Buffington, Executive Director of the Stennis Center and host of Stennis awards events.

The award recipients and their wives are invited to travel to Washington D.C. where they will spend two to three days with members of Congress and congressional staff and learn how policy is made in Washington.

"It is critically important to honor the best of the best and hold up those who best exemplify those leadership qualities. This also provides a chance for members of Congress and of the congressional staff to see the quality and character of those who serve in the military," said Buffington.

The Stennis Leadership Awards were named in honor of former United States Congressman John C. Stennis, who served in the Senate for 41 years.

## Holiday Safety Tips

-Inform your chain of command on your travel plans.

-Use Operational Risk Management to make smart decisions.

-Understand and discuss the causes of motor vehicle mishaps.

-Use alcohol responsibly. If you decide to drink, do so in moderation and do NOT drink and drive.

-Buckle up.

-Pay close attention to home safety. The number of fires increases this time of year.

-Remember the sobering reality of suicides. It is the second leading cause of death in the Navy and is most prevalent during the holiday season.



## International News

### Massacre in Congo, Despite Nearby Aid

By Lydia Polgreen

— Courtesy of Times Digest

KIWANJA, Congo — At last the bullets stopped, and François Kambere Siviri made a dash for the door. After hiding all night from the fighting between rebels and a government-allied militia, he was desperate to get to the latrine a few feet away.

"Pow, pow, pow," said his elderly, widowed mother, Ludia Kavira Nzuva, recounting how the rebels killed her 25-year-old son just outside her front door. She said one of them turned to her and declared, "Voilà, here is your gift."

In little more than 24 hours, at least 150 people would be dead, most of them young men, summarily executed by the rebels last month as they tightened their grip over parts of eastern Congo, according to witnesses and human-rights investigators.

As the killings took place, a contingent of about 100 U.N. peacekeepers was less than a mile away, struggling to understand what was happening outside the gates of its base. The peacekeepers were short of equipment and men, U.N. officials said, and they were focusing on evacuating aid workers and searching for a foreign journalist who had been kidnapped. They had no intelligence capabilities or even an interpreter.

The peacekeepers said they had no idea the killings were taking place until it was all over.

The executions in Kiwanja are a study in the unfettered cruelty meted out by the groups fighting in eastern Congo. They are also a textbook example of the continuing failure of the international peacekeeping force, which has a mandate to protect the Congolese people from brutality.

In this instance, the failure came from a mix of poor communication and staffing, inadequate equipment, intelligence breakdowns and spectacularly bad luck, said Lt. Col. H.S. Brar, the commander of the Indian peacekeepers based in Kiwanja.

The killings and the stumbling response to the rebel advance were symptomatic of problems that have plagued the U.N. force in Congo for years, said Anneke Van Woudenberg, a senior researcher for Human Rights Watch, who investigated the slayings earlier this month. The rebel onslaught was led by a commander who is wanted on war crimes charges by the International Criminal Court.

"Kiwanja was a disaster for everyone," Van Woudenberg said. "The people were betrayed not just by rebels who committed terrible war crimes against them but by the international community that failed to protect them."

In the past year alone, hundreds of thousands of people have been forced to flee their homes as the rebels have fought the government and its allied militias.

The rebel general, Laurent Nkunda, denied that his troops had executed civilians here, accusing government-allied militias of trying to make his movement look bad. "We cannot kill the population," he said. "It is not in our behavior to kill and to rape."

But interviews with victims, aid workers and human-rights investigators showed that Nkunda's men carried out a door-to-door operation over two days in which young men and others were executed.

Witnesses said the rebels ordered that the bodies be buried quickly and far from the cemetery, to avoid leaving evidence for war crimes investigators.



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